(c) whether in the past any important person has been offloaded in this manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. A Bahrain bound passenger on Air India Express flight 1X243 on 29.03.2008 was not allowed to board the aircraft by the Captain as he arrived late for boarding.

(b) The matter has been investigated and all cocnerned have been advised to be more customer friendly ensuring that there are no unnecessary delays to the flights.

(c) As far as NACIL's is concerned, there has been no such incident reported at Mumbai airport.

Bird menace at runways

4164. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accidents due to coming of birds on the runway has been increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents during the last three years; and

(c) what are the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was no aircraft accident during the last three years due to bird hits. However, 189,167 and 217 bird hit incidents were reported during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

(c) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airports where scheduled flights operate to identify the source of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins, establishment of modern abattoirs scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

Aviation projects in States

4165. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVI ATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of civil aviation schemes run in States during the current five year plan as on date;

(b) the progress made under it till date;

(c) whether work on these schemes is progressing keeping with the schedule;

(d) if so, the amount incurred thereon as *on* date; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) List of major schemes undertaken by Airports Authority of

India (AAI) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan indicating the name of the scheme, progress made so far, amount incurred and sanctioned on these projects are as per Annexure 1 and II.

[See Appendix 213 Annexure No. 17]

Upgradation of Airports in Tamil Nadu

4166. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade any airports in Tamil Nadu to international standards since in cities other than Chennai, the air traffic has increased recently for domestic and international journeys;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Besides Chennai airport, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken development of the existing airports at Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirrappalli in Tamil Nadu to international standards. At Coimbatore airport, extension of runway, strengthening of runway, taxiways and construction of isolation bay, grading of side strips. RESA, development and construction of storm water drain etc. have been completed. Construction of a new fire station CAT-IX, construction of E&M workshop and expansion of cargo complex are in progress.

At Madurai airport, construction of boundary wall in operational area, recarpeting and extension of runway, expansion of apron, additional link taxiway, isolation bay and associated facilities, new fire station CAT-VI etc. have been completed. Installation of ILS, construction of localizer building, glide path building, simple approach lighting system, construction of new integrated terminal building, installation of two aerobridges etc. are in progress.

At Tiruchirrappalli airport, strengthening and extension of existing runway, extension and strengthening of apron and allied works, construction of isolation bay and construction of new fire station etc. have ben completed. Works like construction of drain, new integrated terminal building complex, etc. are in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

Fall in ATF price

4167. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices for Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as annoucned in February by oil PSUs is getting cheaper in all cities for the second time this year;

(b) if so, whether the airlines have refused to pass on this benefit to passengers and surcharge remained unchanged at Rs. 1650 per ticket;

(c) if so. what are the main reasons for not passing on this benefit to the passengers by the airlines; and